pennsylvania musician

magazine

Vol.42 #497 Mar 2025

ZAVALA

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4-Open Mic Night 6pm till 9pm
5-Karaoke 6pm till 9pm
6-Music Bingo 6:30pm till 8:30pm
7-70's Costume Party with DJ 6pm till 11pm
8-Colt Wilbur Band 8pm till 11pm
9-Earl David Reed 6pm till 8pm
10-Trivia 6:30pm till 8:30pm
12-Karaoke 6pm till 9pm
13-Bingo for Heartbeats 6pm till 8pm
14-Dale Stipe 6pm till 8pm, Vanishing Point 8pm till 11pm
15-Colin Alvarez Band 8pm till 11pm
16-Queens of the Creek 11am till 2pm
17-Trivia 6:30pm till 8:30pm
18-Dave Gates 6pm till 8pm
19-Karaoke 6pm till 9pm
20-Free Jukebox and Pool 6pm till 9pm
21-Jake Owen 6pm till 8pm, Screamin Daisys 8pm till 11pm
22-The Unusual Guests 8pm till 11pm
23-Adult Naughty Bingo 5:30pm till 8:30pm
24-Trivia 6:30pm till 8:30pm
25-Zavala "House Band" debut 7pm till 9pm
26-Karaoke 6pm till 9pm
27-Thom Lewis 6pm till 8pm
28-81 South 8pm till 11pm
29-Love Rocket 8pm till 11pm
30-Clayote Studio Pottery 4pm till 7pm
31-Trivia 6:30pm till 8:30pm

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pennsylvania musician magazine

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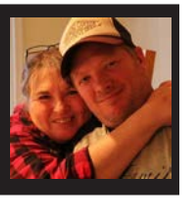
EDITOR RAMBLINGS
By Josh Noll



Wow, welcome back to another issue! This month, we've got another action-packed month of music. Spring is starting to peek around the corner and really can't come soon enough around here. The ice has been stacking up, and I'm really getting tired of ice skating around the property. It feels like Disney on Ice just to make it from the shop to the house. Let's hope for a warmer March and some sunshine to go along with it.

Another month starts out on a sad note as our national writer, Eric Hoffman's father, passed away earlier this month. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Eric and his family during this difficult time. Please hug a loved one—you never know how short life is until it's too late.

Onto some new advertisers! We love new advertisers! The first one is Bristle and Board. No, this is not a band but a creative workshop hosted by Jennifer Auxt. It's time to wake up that creative spirit! Did you ever want to paint something cool but didn't know where to start? Or maybe you painted in the past but lost interest? Need a fun birthday party idea? Jen offers instructor-led workshops designed to help you create beautiful images and have some fun while doing it. She hosts paint parties at local pubs around the area and offers all kinds of different themed workshops, from holiday-themed to "paint your partner" workshops. Some of her upcoming events include a paint party at The Pour House on March 13th featuring a shamrock on canvas (think shamrocks and leprechauns), and on March 25th, it's "Paris in Spring" at the Copper Pub (a sweet painting of the Eiffel Tower). The list goes on and on—she has a full calendar of creative events, so go check out her Facebook page and give a class a shot. You can find her at facebook.com/bristleandboardcreativeworkshop.

Next up is another Auxt: Chris Auxt Guitar Lessons. Yes, half of "Hank the Buffalo" (seems I can't go a month without a buffalo mention), Chris Auxt is offering guitar and bass lessons, both acoustic and electric, based out of Lemoyne, PA. From beginner to advanced lessons, Chris can help you out. He is now accepting new students, so give him a call or text at 717-557-4814, shoot him an email at chrisauxtmusic@gmail.com, or check him out at facebook.com/ChrisAuxtMusic. Call now, and maybe you too will find the buffalo!

Last but not least is "Ragged Grace," featuring Rachel Thomas on vocals, guitar, and keys, along with Jeremy Chubb on guitar and Slade Heller on percussion (another familiar name). Ragged Grace plays the music you love to hear, music you may have forgotten about, and some you've never heard. Rachel has a cut-off country girl style and signature shoulder shimmy that is sure to brighten up your evening. Her infectious way of singing and her style are a very big part of Ragged Grace. She not only focuses on the chords and lyrics but the connection with the crowd. They have a full schedule of events, including March 8th at the Hershey Italian Lodge, March 9th at Flinchy's, and March 28th at The Ridge Run Tavern. For a full list of shows, check them out at facebook.com/raggedgracemusic or go to their website at raggedgrace.com.

Well, that's it for this month! It's raining cats and dogs, so it looks like spring is here! See you next month after the thaw, and if you would like to join in on the fun, give me a call or text at 717-636-4203 or email joshnoll@pamusician.net. Ta-ta for now, and see you on the flip side Pennsylvania!

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3.7 Horn Pub 8-11 pm
3.8 Gary's Bar 8-11 pm
3.14 Tequila Willies 8-11 pm
3.15 Flinchy's 8-11 pm
3.16 TJ Rockwell's Mechanicsburg 2-5 pm [St. Patty's Celebration]
3.20 Sturgese Speakeasy 7-10 pm
3.21 Sierra Madre 7-10 pm
3.22 Doyle Hotel 8-11 pm
3.27 End Zone Sports Bar 8-10 pm [E-town]
3.28 Wolf Brewing 6:30-9:30 pm
3.29 Middletown VFW 7-10 pm
3.30 J&D Cheeseteaks Anniversary Bash 2-4 pm [Adams-Ricci Park]

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03/14 BLUEBIRD INN 7-10, LEBANON 7-10
03/15 WOLF BREWING, MECHANICSBURG 630-930
03/16 EAGLES NEST, YORK 5-8
03/21 HORN PUB, LEWISBERRY 8-11
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OUT 'N' ABOUT

By Rachel Rocks

Happy March! Spring is right around the corner, and I'm getting so excited! I need warm weather and sunshine! I have to go snag an early dose with a trip to the Sunshine State, so I have to get this article done so I can go have fun! With a month full of travel my month was very limited, but I still squeezed in music however I could.

The first stop this month was at the end of January at the Open Mic at Blue Sky Tavern. It happened to be the anniversary of Dad's passing so it was a rough day, but I knew music would be just what I needed. Out of all the songs in the universe two different performers played not one, but two Dad classics: "Riders on the Storm" and "All Along the Watchtower". I really felt an overwhelming hug from Dad, which is just what I needed. It's amazing how music cures what ales ya, whether it's through your radio, or live and in person. I'm so extremely thankful for this music community, the friends I've made, and the bonds we've created.

After the open mic we headed up to Flinchy's to finish the night with Sam M Music. None of us had ever heard of Sam M, but decided to pop in and check it out. Sam is a solo, female musician. We don't have enough female musicians in this area, so I was thrilled to see someone I've never seen before. She was excited to have all of our craziness and excitement come in the room! She was playing all of our favorite songs and we were quickly singing along and having a great time. Sam is just getting started, but hopefully we will see her, and more women like her out there rockin' local stages!

On a Thursday night I made it in to Sturges to see Hank the Buffalo. Not only was the music fam out to see Hank the Buffalo, but Sturges was also packed with people in town for the Outdoor Show at the Farm Show. There were some boys from East Coast Outfitter that were a hoot and a holler to hang with! They were amazed by Hank the Buffalo's show, and invited us all on down to Orcacoke to play music and hang out. And if we ever want to go hunting and fishing.. they got us covered! Ya never know where I'll show up. There are some lovely beaches down there in the Outer Banks! Friday night I was busy after work getting my magazines delivered, but did manage to swing in to Sierra Madre again for Hank. The manager at Sierra Madre loved them so much they booked them for their biggest party day of the year, Cinco de Mayo! They will be performing from 5-8pm! Sierra Madre is definitely the place to be for Cinco de Mayo!

Saturday as all my friends were running around having a blast. I was working and having fun in my own way at Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course. I'm continually amazed at all of the entertainment all of the local casinos provide. I'm much more in tune with it all now that I'm the one booking it! HA! This day was a busy one with Joe Cooney and Friends (Dan), in the Penn Draft House, (which by the time you read this Penn Draft House will be no more), Steel Dragon, a lion dance for the Lunar New Year, and then it was the first Saturday of the month, so the tribute band was Earth to Mars, a tribute to Bruno Mars. As a liaison for BRP Entertainment it's our job to make sure everyone has everything they need and are everywhere they need to be. I definitely got my steps in running around the casino, but appreciated snippets of all of the entertainment that was provided. If you are ever looking for something to do. Grantville bands rock out til midnight Friday and Saturdays with the DJ til 1am, and York and Morgantown have full bands on Fridays til 1am, and Saturdays both have DJs also til 1am. So much entertainment to go see and hear. The fun doesn't have to stop at 11pm, last I checked I don't think any of us will turn into a pumpkin after midnight!

On Sunday I kidnapped Cindy, and we went with my family down to Sandbridge Beach for a much needed vacation. I literally do as little as possible when I go to the beach. People are amazed that I can manage to sit still, but every now and then I need rest too.

When we got back the weather wasn't cooperating, but finally on Thursday I got out to Sturges for Megan and Dave! I wasn't the only one jonesing to get out and the music fam was out in full force. Megan and Dave continue to strengthen their set list and suck me in to every show. I love singing and dancing with my friends. Megan and Dave cover music through 7 different decades and such a huge variety, you really never know what they are going to play next, but whatever it is, it's going to be FUN! Of course fellow musicians were filling the down time at breaks and the music was in full force all night long!

On Valentine's Day mu hubby was under the weather, so I scooped up the next best thing, my son Zack and we went to Matt Jameson's show at Boomerang Bar and Grill before the Harrisburg Comedy Zone show. The dining room was full of plenty of people on their hot Valentine's Day dates, but the requests were flowing and everyone was having a great time. The comedians were both pretty funny, but the local opener

continued on next page...

Jason Carst

STEEL

TOUR SCHEDULE

3/1 Carroll Coon Club, Hampstead MD 8:30pm
3/29 Redman Tribe 84, Williamsport MD 8pm
4/26 Blue Ridge Sportsmen's Assoc. Fairfield PA 7pm
5/3 Vertical 4 Life Benefit Concert
Mechanicsburg Picnic Grounds PA 4pm
5/23 Mechanicsburg Legion, Mechanicsburg PA 8pm
6/8 Fallston Barrel House, Fallston MD 4pm

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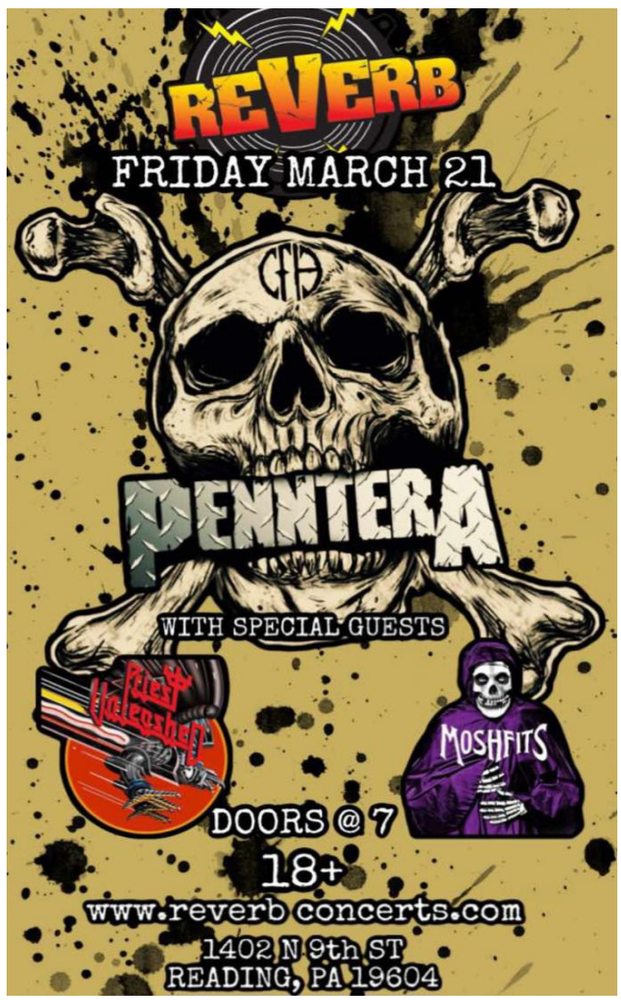

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Out & About continued....

Mike O'Donnell was hilarious. Zack and I were both rolling with laughter during his set. The Harrisburg Comedy Zone/Boomerangs offers a lot of entertainment with music, comedians, etc. It's one of those places I just don't stop in enough, because I never see their postings anywhere about their events, etc. Otherwise I would probably stop in there more often!

After some more nasty weekend weather stopping my fun plans, I was excited to see the following Tuesday Matt Jameson was at Falls Crab Shack. If you've never been it's one heck of an experience. You just never know what's going to happen. When I got there the place was packed with so many familiar faces. I had a blast bopping around the room talking, singing and dancing with so many different friends! It's hard for people to realize, not only do I love going to Matt's shows because he's a great "entertainer", and I love hearing him play, but also his fans have become my friends. I get the pleasure of actually visiting with the people that support him, because music is the bond!

On Wednesday I made a shout out on Facebook that I would be at Open Mic at Blue Sky because I needed content for my article and people did not disappoint!! Blue Sky was absolutely packed!! I was there from beginning to end and caught it all! Matt was breaking the seal by going first and giving everyone time to warm up. Colin Alvarez stepped up next. Colin plays solo and with a 3-piece band, he's been playing more throughout the area and it's always a special treat to catch his soulful sound! Marshall Stone graced us with his presence the whole way from New Oxford. His secret trick is playing "I Put Your Picture Away" with both Kid Rock and Sheryl Crow's voices! Marshall is definitely a show to catch for sure. He plays all over the place especially in South Central PA. I was super excited to finally physically meet Rachael Thomas from Ragged Grace. Rachael regularly performs with Jeremy Chubb and Slade Heller, but since Slade was coming with Derek Avalon, he was late. HA! So Rachael performed on her

Colin Alvarez

own, and she killed it! LOVED seeing the girl power on the stage. Speaking of girl power Vivian took the stage next, at only 9 years old she sang her heart out on one of her Disney favorites. A small reminder that open mic is for all skill levels and types! Next up was Dale Stipe. He's been around for a while in many different capacities and is still rocking with his full band every chance he gets. Scott Crasher from Crash & Cross stepped up next with his guitar and continues to amaze us with how much he's learning. He sang and played "Something in the Orange" like a pro! Another new Trio, technically duo for the night was ATM, Alex and Mike brought the 90s Grunge music back on the stage for us all to enjoy! Tom is recovering from surgery, but hopefully we see all three of them again soon. Merv had me head-banging at an open mic! This guy is probably close to one of the quietest in the room, but when he's on stage, he lets loose and I absolutely love it! Dave Gates stepped up next. He has an amazing voice and played some crowd favorites for us all. Derek Avalon finally showed up! And played some love songs for us with his buttery voice, almost made ya feel like it was Valentine's Day! Slade Heller brought his guitar to play us a song before he joined Hank the Buffalo on stage. I believe Matt said it best when he said that Slade is the "O" in Buffalo! Slade switched from guitar to drums for their set, because, well, that's what Slade does. He's a multi-instrument maniac.. and multiple bands! After Hank the Buffalo got us all rowdy singing we "Gotta Fight For Our Right to Paaaaarrrtttaaayy!"..

Matt Jameson strapped his guitar on, and quickly got a bunch of musicians up to play, no better song, than "Come Together" by the Beatles. Overall it was an amazing night, not only by the musicians sharing all of their talent, but also from the fans of music all gathering together to enjoy the show! If you missed this open mic, the fun is at Blue Sky Tavern every Wednesday from 6:30-9pm.

Thursday night Matt Jameson had an early show at the Doyle Hotel in Duncannon for Rotunda Brew Pub's Tap Takeover. He had Slade Heller join him on percussion, and it was definitely an amazing added bonus! The entire bar was definitely taken over! It was overflowing with standing room only craziness! You had no choice but to dance to the music. The Doyle has a special vibe. It's definitely the reason why there is a "FUNcannon". You can't leave that place without a smile on your face!

After his show we took our crazy energy down the road and back to the Sturges for Dave Gates. With way too much FOMO going on we quickly convinced the music fam to follow us down and join in the fun. We quickly made Sturges the place to be. Luckily Jen from Bristle & Board was there with me because there was a lot of testosterone at this show. But it was so awesome to see all of the guys in the local scene sitting down together, supporting Dave and having a great time just all being together. Dave is definitely the human juke box and can basically play anything you request! I don't think I ever heard him say the words I don't know how to play that song! Truly a machine!! During his breaks again the room was never silent as the guitars were passed from one musician to another and fun was had by all!

My last night of the month I had great plans to zoom down to Gettysburg Rocks, but decided to stay local after a full work day on the road! I was bummed to miss Gettysburg Rocks this year, but I'm finishing this article so I can go catch my flight! So last night, the fun started at the Copper Pub to help Jason Carst celebrate his birthday! After last month when we sucked him into our Funnel of Fun, the poor guy literally slipped a disc in his back because of all the fun, and is still trying to recover! So he's feeling

continued on next page..

MATT
JAMESON
LIVE
Tues. 3/4-Falls Crab Shack, York Haven, 6-8pm
Wed. 3/5-CPMAs!! No open mic..
Sat. 3/8-Private Party, Mifflintown, PA
Sun. 3/9-Wolf Brewing, Mech, PA, 11a-2pm
Wed. 3/12-OPEN MIC Blue Sky Tavern, 6:30-9pm
Fri. 3/14-Beerded Goat, Harrisburg, 6:20-9:30pm
Sat. 3/15-Horn Pub, Lewisberry, 8-11pm
Wed. 3/19-OPEN MIC Blue Sky Tavern, 6:30-9pm
Wed. 3/26-OPEN MIC Blue Sky Tavern, 6:30-9pm
Fri. 3/28-Marysville VFW, 7-10pm
Sat. 3/29-Hook & Flask, Carlisle, 7-10pm
MATTJAMESONLIVE@GMAIL.COM

every year of his age, but he still makes sure the show goes on! Jason loves Grateful Dead, but even on his birthday, he was awesome and played our requests instead of what he really wanted to play! Jason tries his best to livestream every show, so if you are ever bored at home, check out his page and join in on his Livestream! It's always a good time!

After the Pub it was off to Flinchy's for one last Matt Hoorah! To finish off the month. Matt doesn't play at Flinchy's nearly as much as he was last year, so when he does play there the place is always INSANE. So packed with people that it's hard to even walk in there, but we are all "family" and we squeeze in and have an insanely fun time! I can't quite talk today, I lost my voice.. I wonder why!?

Another month of fun comes to an end! But alas.. I will be back! It's hard to believe the Central PA Music Awards show will be here before we know it on Wednesday, March 5th! As of today there are a few tickets left, but they are limited! Come celebrate the local scene with us! It's one heck of a party that you won't want to miss!

Thanks so much to everyone for all of your continued support. This wouldn't be nearly as fun without all of you!!! Music brings us all together and heals are souls! Please get out there and support local music! And if/when you see me Out & About please stop me and say Hi!

Open Mic crew at Blue Sky Tavern

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3/7 Vince Rollins
3/8 Kevin and Dean
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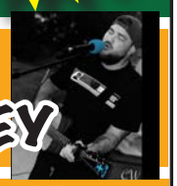
6-9pm
Friday, March 7th
CODY WILEY

6-9pm
Saturday, March 8th
JASON CARST

Friday, March 14th TBD

6-9pm
Saturday, March 15th
ROGER BOWYER

6-9pm
Friday, March 21st
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Saturday, March 22nd
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NATIONALS

By Eric Hoffman

Greetings Rockers 'N' Rollers! I would like to dedicate this month's article to my father Dr. Hillard R. Hoffman who passed away on February 21st. My Dad was an educator, an incredible person and a fantastic father. He enjoyed sports, family and everything Penn State. His interest in music consisted solely of Frank Sinatra - but he was always very supportive of my music passion. The gratitude I have for the life he gave me and life lessons he taught me is unmeasurable and follows me everyday.

Music this past month began with a sold-out show at Baltimore's Soundstage featuring Mannequin Pussy and Militarie Gun. The two bands joined forces for 4 sold-out performances on the East Coast. Militarie Gun from Los Angeles continue to gain fans with noteworthy songs "Do It Faster," "Pressure Cooker" and "Never F-d Up Once." They will be touring with High Vis for a month around America and play Philadelphia's TLA April 29th and Baltimore's Ottobar May 2nd. Mannequin Pussy hail from Philadelphia and their latest album 'I Got Heaven' is receiving critical acclaim and the band will play a headlining show at Harrisburg's XL Live on June 8th.

My father, Dr. Hillard R. Hoffman

XL Live of Harrisburg continues to fill the calendar with non-stop concerts. Crazy Train Ozzy Experience, a tribute band to Ozzy Osbourne, visited the venue on February 1st with local rockers, Steel and Road Case. Crazy Train are based in Maine and do a great job carrying on Ozzy Osbourne's legacy. The real Ozzy Osbourne is set to reunite with his original band, Black Sabbath, for his final concert ever at Birmingham, England's Villa Park on July 5th. Osbourne's well documented health issues have left the singer unable to walk and profits from the last concert will be equally divided between four charities. Singer, Har Mar Superstar, visited Central PA once again for the 5th Year Anniversary of Millersville's Phantom Power music venue on February 14th. Har Mar Superstar, played the 400-capacity venue back in March 2020 with his other project, Heart Bones. He is known for his energetic live performances and his contemporary R&B and pop music which is distributed by The Strokes' record label, Cult Records.

Phish is hitting the road this summer with multi-night stints across the U.S., with dates kicking off in June with two shows at Philadelphia's TD Pavilion at the Mann July 15th & 16th. The jam band was recently named as nominees for this year's Rock & Roll Hall of Fame's Class of 2025, marking their first-ever nomination honoring their four-decade career.

After opening "SNL50: The Anniversary Special" by performing "Homeward Bound" as a duet with Sabrina Carpenter, Paul Simon has announced North American dates for "A Quiet Celebration Tour." His current setlist will include the live debut performance of Simon's Grammy-nominated 2023 acoustic album, Seven Psalms, along with a selection of his beloved hits. Paul Simon's 55-date tour includes three nights at Philadelphia's Academy of Music June 26th, 28th, 29th.

After turning New York City upside down two nights in a row, Paul McCartney returned for a third time at the 575-capacity Bowery Ballroom in the Lower East Side on February 14th. Tickets were limited to 1 per person. The first night's setlist included Fab Four classics like "Hard Days Night," "From Me to You," "Now and Then," "Hey Jude," "Get Back," "Got to Get You Into My Life," "Letting Go" and more. Night two featured "Can't Buy Me Love," "Flaming Pie," "Lady Madonna," "Carry That Weight," "The End" and more. McCartney has performed hits across his catalog – including Beatles' classics "Hey Jude" and "Let It Be." McCartney admitted onstage the first night that he and his band only had one night of rehearsal before diving into their first show on February 11th.

The lineup has been announced for the 2025 Oceans Calling Festival with Green Day, Noah Kahan and Fall Out Boy set to headline September. 26th-28th at the Boardwalk in Ocean City, Maryland. The festival returns to Ocean City Inlet Beach with more than 40 artists performing across three stages including Weezer, Lenny Kravitz, Vampire Weekend, Good Charlotte, Train, The Black Crowes, Nelly, Devo, Modest Mouse, O.A.R., Vance Joy, CAKE, Ziggy Marley, Jack's Mannequin and many more.

Roots Picnic returns to The Mann in Fairmount Park in Philadelphia for two days on May 31st and June 1st. This year's festival includes performances from D'Angelo with The Roots, Lenny Kravitz, Meek Mill, GloRilla, Miguel, Tems, Latto, Kaytranada and more. Warped Tour is rolling out its 2025 acts one at a time, with a handful of bands announced per day over 30 days. The festival confirmed Simple Plan, Dance Hall Crashers, Pennywise, Bowling For Soup, Miss May I and Chandler Leighton. Drain, Saturdays At Your Place, The Maine, 311 and Honey Revenge. Warped Tour begins at The Fields At RFK Campus in Washington, D.C., June 14th-15th. In July the festival heads to Long Beach for a July 26th-27th stop at the Shoreline Waterfront and in November Warped Tour lands at Orlando's Camping World Stadium Campus November 15th-16th.

Mariah Carey, Chubby Checker, Cyndi Lauper, OutKast, Phish, the Black Crowes and Oasis are some of the 2025 nominees for induction into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. The Hall revealed the list of 14 performer nominees including Bad Company, Joe Cocker, Billy Idol, Joy Division/New Order, Maná, Soundgarden and the White Stripes. The 2025 Inductees will be revealed in late April and the induction ceremony will take place in Los Angeles this fall. Artists must have released their first commercial recording at least 25 years before they're eligible for induction.

The "I Love the 90s Tour" enters its tenth year celebrating the music of a decade with headliner Vanilla Ice. The lineup features a rotating roster of '90s hip-hop and R&B performers including Treach of Naughty By Nature, Rob Base, Color Me Badd, All-4-One, Montell Jordan and Young MC complemented by O-town, Ryan Cabrera, LFO and more. Titled "Forever Young" the tour visits Wind Creek Event Center in Bethlehem, PA on March 15th, Hard Rock in Atlantic City on September 13th and Powell Convention Center in Ocean City, MD on November 22nd.

Patti Smith is celebrating the golden anniversary of her acclaimed debut album, Horses, by performing the LP in full on a tour that's booked through Europe and the U.S. Her quintet, brings the Horses 50th anniversary tour to the U.S. for 10 performances, including The Anthem in Washington DC on November 28th and The Met in Philadelphia on November 29th. Horses was selected by the Library of Congress for preservation into the National Recording Registry in 2019.

The Outlaw Music Festival 10th Anniversary Tour has announced the artists and will vary by city and includes Willie Nelson & Family,

Ian Shelton of Militarie Gun

Bob Dylan, Billy Strings, Nathaniel Rateliff & The Night Sweats, Sheryl Crow, Turnpike Troubadours, The Avett Brothers, Wilco, The Red Clay Strays, Lake Street Dive, Waxahatchee, Charles Wesley Godwin, Lucinda Williams, Bruce Hornsby & The Noisemakers, Trampled By Turtles, The Mavericks, Sierra Hull, Willow Avalon, Waylon Payne, Madeline Edwards, Lily Meola, Myron Elkins, Tami Neilson and more. Willie Nelson stated, "I can't wait to join friends and family in bringing this celebration to the fans we love." The milestone tour includes 35 stops across 22 states and visits Hersheypark Stadium on August 9th with Willie Nelson & Family, Bob Dylan, Turnpike Troubadours, The Red Clay Strays, Waylon Payne. Since its 2016 start in Scranton, Pennsylvania, the Outlaw Music Festival has become an annual touchstone of authentic Americana.

Har Mar Superstar

Marianne Faithfull, the British pop star and muse who helped write some of the Rolling Stones' greatest songs and endured as a singer and survivor of the lifestyle she once embodied, died at the age of 78. Faithfull passed away January 30th in London in the company of her loving family. For decades, her admirers would include Beck, Billy Corgan, Nick Cave and PJ Harvey, although her history would always be closely tied to the Stones and to the years she dated Mick Jagger. She and Jagger began seeing each other in 1966 and Faithfull once declared that if LSD "wasn't meant to happen, it wouldn't have been invented." Their rejection of conventional values was widely publicized. Faithfull helped inspire such Stones songs as "She Smiled Sweetly," "Let's Spend the Night Together." and "Wild Horses."

The legendary Bob Dylan continues to tour while his Oscar nominated biography movie "A Complete Unknown" continues to play in theaters. Dylan announced a few tour dates as part of Dylan's "Rough And Rowdy Ways" worldwide tour. That trek takes its name from Dylan's 39th studio album, which was released in 2020. He followed that up with the 2023 LP Shadow King. Dylan's upcoming schedule starts in Tulsa, Oklahoma, followed by Wichita, Kansas; Mankato, Minnesota, and Green Bay, Wisconsin.

MARCH CONCERTS: The Badlees/Armadillos - Hershey Englewood March 7th. Steel/ Junk Punk - Harrisburg Ramona's Basement March 8th. The Super High-Tech Jet Fighters - Harrisburg Strawberry Square March 21st. Cape May Singer/Songwriter Conference - Cape May, NJ March 28th-29th. Jeffrey Gaines - New Cumberland West Shore Theatre March 29th.

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January 18, 2025	7 - 10 pm	Big Bottom Brewery, Dillsburg
February 1, 2025	7 - 10 pm	Back Porch Brewing, Carlisle
February 22, 2025	8 pm - 12 am	Hollywood Casino, Grantville
March 22, 2025	7 - 10 pm	Shermans Creek Inn, Shermansdale
April 4, 2025	7 - 10 pm	Back Porch Brewing, Carlisle
April 26, 2025	7 - 10 pm	Big Bottom Brewery, Dillsburg
May 3, 2025	7 - 10 pm	Back Porch Brewing, Carlisle
June 20, 2025	7 - 10 pm	Linglestown American Legion, Linglestown
August 2, 2025	7 - 10 pm	Big Bottom Brewery, Dillsburg
August 29, 2025	8 - 11 pm	Shermans Creek Inn, Shermansdale
November 8, 2025	7 - 10 pm	Big Bottom Brewery, Dillsburg
November 21, 2025	7 - 10 pm	Dillsburg American Legion, Dillsburg
December 20, 2025	8 - 11 pm	Carlisle Moose Lodge, Carlisle

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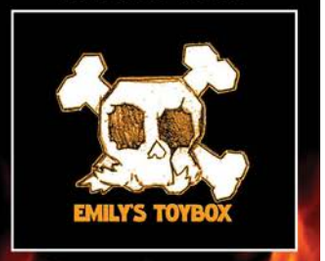
16th Make it a Double
22nd 69 band
23rd Jonathan Frazier
29th Rob Reale
30th Tommy B

Sat Mar 1st

Fri Mar 7th

Sat Mar 8th

Fri Mar 14th



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Sat Mar 22nd

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ZAVALA

Zavala: The Fortress of Local Talent

Zavala, an ancient Spanish name dating back to medieval times, means "Fortress." True to its name, Zavala—the newly formed house band at Shermans Creek Inn—is a fortress built by a diverse group of local musicians.

The idea for the band began after a December 2024 performance by Lydia Zavala and her Trio at the Creek. Impressed by her vocal talent and crowd presence, Troy Tremellen, owner of The Creek, decided to form a house band around Lydia. After some careful consideration, Lydia thought, "Why not? Let's go for it!."

Troy quickly enlisted the help of the ever-busy Kevin Nelson to assemble a band of high-level local musicians to perform alongside Lydia. Kevin, a skilled guitarist, dug into his archive of local talent and reached out to Tommy B, who would handle the drums. He then brought on Brandon Barnhart to play keys. For bass, Kevin needed someone who could not only keep the rhythm but also lend backup vocals for the diverse playlist Troy had in mind. Answering the call was Ric Bomberger, a seasoned bass player and vocalist, and a regular at the Creek.

Lydia Zavala, the lead vocalist, hails from Laureldale, PA. Her love of performing began in second grade when she first sang in the school chorus. She recalls the excitement of the crowd that day—a feeling she has craved ever since. As a latchkey kid, she organized a "dance squad" and performed routines for her classmates to songs by "Ace of Base." Drawn to school musicals, Lydia credits all her music teachers, especially Mr. Sandel from Muhlenberg High School, for encouraging her to pursue her dreams. Although she studied fashion in college, Lydia never stopped performing whenever she had the chance.

In 2007, Lydia moved to Harrisburg and began working on original music. However, it wasn't until 2014 that she began performing in bands. A poorly-timed move to Las Vegas in early 2019 left her stranded during the pandemic, struggling to find her place in a new city where she never felt at home. In 2021, Lydia returned to Harrisburg and began performing with her trio, which includes Lydia on vocals, Steve Jewett on guitar, and Eric Slaughter on drums. She also performs with Erich Cawalla's "Uptown Band," one of the region's best variety and dance bands.

Brandon Barnhart Kevin Nelson Lydia Zavala Tommy B Ric Bomberger

Lydia lists her influences as Mariah Carey, Alicia Keys, and Christina Aguilera, and credits local music coach Amy Flowers from "Soul House & House of Vocals" for pushing her out of her comfort zone and back on stage to pursue music full-time. When asked about her favorite songs to perform from the diverse setlist, she mentioned Republica's "Ready To Go" and The B-52's "Love Shack" for their upbeat vibe and freshness. The most challenging songs for Lydia are Whitney Houston's "I Wanna Dance With Somebody" and Journey's "Don't Stop Believin'," due to their technical vocals and the responsibility to do justice to such classic tunes.

Kevin Nelson, guitarist for Zavala, is no stranger to the local scene. In addition to his role as an on-air DJ at Red 102.3, where he hosts the midday show and serves as production manager, Kevin is the Entertainment Manager at Shermans Creek Inn. He also plays in four other bands: "Adrian Blitzer," "Love Rocket," "Shine Through the Shade," and "Date Night," a duo with his wife. Kevin

Lydia Zavala

began playing music at the age of 5 and attended HACC for music merchandising, receiving a NAMM Scholarship that allowed him to attend the NAMM show in California. He is classically trained in guitar and trombone, and he also dabbles in drums and keys. Kevin teaches guitar lessons and, thanks to encouragement from Troy at Shermans Creek Inn, has transitioned to a full-time music career, leaving his retail job behind. When asked about his favorite song from the setlist, Kevin chose Toto's "Hold the Line" and listed Selena's "Disco Medley" as the most challenging. Yes, you read that right—Troy wanted disco on the setlist! So, get ready to dust off those bell bottoms and break out your dance moves because Zavala is bringing the heat.

Ric Bomberger, bassist for Zavala, began his musical journey at age 3, playing piano before switching to trumpet, which eventually led him to West Chester College, where he received classical training in voice and trumpet. After deciding that teaching in the classroom wasn't for him, Ric transitioned to bass in 1982 and soon found himself playing in a jazz band, where he honed his skills. Over the years, Ric has played with many bands, including "Flannelboy" (a mid-'90s grunge band), "Jim Rhoads Action" (which featured Ric on the cover of PA Musician Magazine), "Liz Chrome and the Surge," and "Honey Badger." He still plays with "Shotgunn." Ric lists his favorite setlist songs as "Love Shack" and the "Disco Medley," and the most challenging as Lizzo's "About Damn Time," a song he'd never heard before trying to play it with a full band. But, as practice showed, they pulled it off beautifully.

Brandon Barnhart, "The Electric Piano Man," has been performing as a solo artist for 12 years and also fronts the band "Modern Outlaws," where he sings lead vocals and plays guitar and piano. A native of Selinsgrove/Sunbury, Brandon is classically trained in piano and enjoys playing keys with Zavala, as it allows him to explore new sounds that he doesn't often get to use with his other bands. The band's diverse setlist requires Brandon to quickly switch between piano, strings, and brass, often using his foot pedal to shift between sounds. He feels fortunate to be part of two bands with such talented musicians. When asked about his favorite songs from the setlist, Brandon picked Katy Perry's "California Gurls" and Ariana Grande's "Greedy." As for the most challenging, he listed the "Disco Medley."

Last but not least, Tommy B, the drummer for Zavala, is no stranger to the local scene. Known for his solo 12 string guitar shows, Tommy started his musical journey on drums in 1998 before switching to guitar. He first performed at Shermans Creek Inn in 2021 and has since played over 150 shows a year in 2023 and 2024. This year, Tommy plans to scale back to 50-60 solo gigs to focus on his craft and balance personal time, though he still plans to incorporate performances into his love of traveling. He recently participated in Gettysburg Rocks, raising $520 by matching donations for people buying his merchandise. Tommy's favorite songs on the setlist are Bruno Mars' "Treasure" and Republica's "Ready To Go," which allow him to showcase his skills on drums. The most challenging? Shania Twain's "Man! I Feel Like a Woman," a song that requires a certain headspace for him to get into.

Zavala will debut at the Shermans Creek Inn on Tuesday, March 25th, performing songs from the '70s through today's latest tracks. The plan is for them to play one Tuesday each month and bring a new mid-week band night to the Creek. As always, there is NO COVER CHARGE at The Shermans Creek Inn for bands, and this is something Troy strives to offer his patrons.

If you can't tell from this article, Troy is a huge supporter of local music and is constantly finding ways to bring new and exciting entertainment to his venue and beyond. Zavala would like to thank Troy for giving them this opportunity, as well as the practice space. As Brandon said, "ALL THE FREE WINGS I CAN EAT!" (Yes, he even feeds the band at each practice session).

Kevin lists Troy as the main reason he was able to quit his "day" job and pursue a life in the music industry. He also gave Tommy B his first shot at a solo gig and launched him—and many others—on their musical journeys. He helped to raise funds for our own Chris Rider when he lost his house due to a tragic fire. The list goes on and on. Troy is dedicated not just to the music scene but also to his community, through local events they host each year to help support surrounding businesses.

If you have never been to Shermans Creek Inn, please make the drive and experience it for yourself. Troy's team is not just a business; they are a family that supports each other and the local scene. They offer some sort of entertainment almost every night of the week. You can check out the action-packed full schedule each month in the PA Musician Magazine. Make your plans now!

To follow Zavala and stay updated on show dates, visit facebook.com/profile.php?id=61572960947969.

For Shermans Creek Inn updates, go to facebook.com/ShermansCreekInn

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RIDER'S ON THE STORM

By Chris Rider

Wow…what a month. Busy is an understatement, and I'll say this: House shopping nowadays is exciting, and disappointing at the same time LOL. Thankfully, Wendy & I have a great realtor (bonus, she & her husband are great friends too!) and by the time you may read this, we are so thankful to be able to tell you that we've moved in to our new house! After everything we went through, we can truly say that we've been blessed over the last few months with all the love and support we have received. As I type this month's article, we're 3 sleeps away from our closing, and moving…and we can't wait. So in between all the house shopping (as well as shopping for everything we need for the house), we did manage to make it out to a few shows this month and I suppose I ought to talk about those too, right?

First night out was to finally make it in to Record Smith

in Mechanicsburg for the Jellybricks album release party. I've been meaning to get to this place for a bit, but that was put on hold for a little while til things get straightened out. I do know this: once I get a new record player & system, I'll be making quite a few visits to this shop. It may be small, but they've got a great selection of albums. The Jellybricks took the stage to celebrate

their album release by playing a number of their older tunes, as well as a few of their new ones including my personal favorite "Age Of Stupid". Every time I see these guys, no matter the size of the stage, it's just guaranteed to be a great time. Check out their new album "Dreaming In Stereo", I promise you won't be disappointed!

The following week I trekked down to Lovedraft's Brewing for one of their last shows at this location, the Suicide Puppets' album release party for "Where Killers Go To Die". First up on stage was Delaware based Jungle Dream. These guys hit the stage with horrifying masks and makeup that made for great pictures, and they just pounded the place in to submission with their original songs as well as a cover or two including a very cool & creative cover of "Beautiful People". Second up on stage was NYC based Glampire, a sort of Halloween Metal Core band led by a charismatic female vocalist (sorry, I didn't catch her name!).

Their songs were heavy, fast paced with high energy and quickly led to a great circle pit right in front of the stage with songs like Grave Robber Girl, New York Nosferatu, Devil Doll and more. Batting third in the lineup was my boys: The Suicide Puppets. The guys took the stage and immediately owned it ripping out their classic horror/industrial metal tunes like Prey, Porn Star, and

others…songs off their new album including my instant favorite "Piggy", as well as their awesome cover of "Twilight Zone". Capping off the night was a band that I've been itching to see ever since I found them through TikTok: Traverse The Abyss. I came into it expecting a lot (they do a great job with their social media!), and I have to say…I wasn't disappointed in the least. They are non-stop energy with songs like Reasoning, Viewpoint, Trainwreck, and a bunch more. Seriously, if you're in to the met-

al-core scene, you should absolutely be checking these guys out.

A few nights ago, we got the rare chance to meet my son for dinner, a beer and a few tunes at Liquid Noise Brewing Co in Marysville. This is my first time back there since they've changed ownership. The food was great, the brews were tasty (definitely try the Belgian Triple!), and the service was excellent. Entertainment for the night was Whiskey Ginger, an acoustic duo with a sort of Folk/Celtic/Soul vibe that made for a great night. They started off with a beautiful a Capela Celtic tune that I really enjoyed. The rest of their songs were a beautiful blend of acoustic playing and vocal harmonies that paired really well their vibe.

My last trip out for the month was last night, down to Millersville University for the CPMHOF's annual Youth Music Showcase. I absolutely love this event…it might even be my favorite of the year. This is such an awesome opportunity for the young musicians, but it's also a great opportunity for us to see what the future holds for our music scene. I have to say…each year I just continue to be impressed with the musicianship shown by these folks. This year there were 12 performances (each act gets to showcase one song) and all of them were fantastic. Congratulations to all of the performers on doing such an outstanding job! Performances by: Lucy Trout, Johalys Benscome, Jake Rollins, Lydia Mowers, Juliet, C.Z. Moe, Carmine Gontz, Blank Page, Alex Lee Warner, Penny Shaw, Izzy Butters, and Lucy Hood.

So there it is, my month of music through my eyes and ears. I want to once again thank all the bands, venues, and everyone else involved in our incredible local music scene for everything they do. Just a reminder: if you've got a show coming up that I should see; make sure to send me an invite, shoot me an email or a message, let me know about it. Venues: please don't hesitate to reach out to me as well. The majority of the shows that I go and shoot I find out about through invites from all of you or your friends. Hit me up on facebook: @chrisriderphotography or email: chrisriderphotography@gmail.com, stop me if you see me and say hi. Until next month...go find some live music and give them and the venue your support, they truly need it more now than they ever did.

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W/ SPECIAL GUESTS: TBA...

THE PROFESSOR

By Jim Price

Spring officially arrives this month, and after the frigid and icy winter we have had in recent weeks, it can't come soon enough! And its arrival also means that live music will start to head back outdoors for another fun warm weather season!

The indoor live music scene has been exciting in recent weeks, as I got to witness a number of great shows. When you put three of my favorite things – chili, wings and live music – together in one place on a Saturday night, it's highly likely I'll be there to enjoy it all! Such was the case in late January as the Central PA Humane Society presented its annual Chili & Wing Fest inside the upstairs hall of Altoona's Bavarian Aid Society. A packed house enjoyed plentiful chilis and wings from a number of area eateries and several individuals, all competing to win awards and trophies for audience "People's Choice" and "Judges' Choice" in both food categories. Live music was a part of it, courtesy of Altoona-based favorites Shallow 9. Guest Greg Folsom played guitar with the group this night, joining singer Erika Machiel, rapper and singer Mike Stanley, singer, keyboardist and guitarist Ryan Weaver, bassist and backing singer Mitch Neuder and drummer Todd Harshbarger. It didn't take long for Shallow 9 to fire up the dance floor party with their energized variety of favorites spanning rock, pop, punk, soul and hip-hop. The group kept the music fresh and the energy constant, bouncing between various genres with individual songs and medleys. They set the tone early with popular numbers from The Killers, Outkast, Cheap Trick and Bowling For Soup, before jumping into a 1970s soul medley connecting hits from the Ohio Players, Kool & the Gang and KC & the Sunshine Band. Another medley later fused together songs from The Knack, Avril Lavigne, Blink-182, Lustra and more; and with Mike and Erika handling the raps, Shallow 9 kept the dance floor churning with a hip-hop/dance medley containing favorites from House Of Pain, Eminem, Michael Jackson, David Bowie, Vanilla Ice, Salt-N-Pepa and others. It all made for a fun evening; proceeds from the event helped the shelter animals at the Humane Society.

Erika Machiel

After the Chili & Wing Fest concluded, I headed a few blocks down the hill to Altoona's 4D's Lounge, where Happy Valley favorites Velveeta struck up the 80s cheese-laden party. The second of two consecutive nights at the 4D's, Velveeta played totally different sets of music both nights. The seasoned cast of singer and guitarist Brian Kriley, singer and bassist Adam Becker, keyboardist Brent Martin and drummer John Harper mixed up plentiful 80s favorites with occasional other decades represented. Velveeta steadily filled up the dance floor with hits from the Knack, Journey, John Cafferty & the Beaver Brown Band, Kenny Loggins, Men At Work, Tommy Tutone, U2, Tom Petty, Bon Jovi, Bruce Springsteen, Human League, Poison and many more. The group honored a few requests along the way, breaking out versions of Looking Glass' "Brandy (You're A Fine Girl)," Toto's 'yacht rock' favorite "Rosanna" and AC/DC's "Dirty Deeds Done Dirt Cheap." Another highlight was the group's rendition of Rusted Root's "Send Me On My Way," leading into John's volatile drum solo. This led into a homestretch including a mash-up of the Police's "Message in a Bottle" and the Eurythmics' "Sweet Dreams," Def Leppard's "Pour Some Sugar On Me," Van Halen's "Hot For Teacher" with another fierce drumming display from John, Brian leading the group and audience on Garth Brooks' "Friends in Low Places," and for the encore, Metallica's "Enter Sandman." As Velveeta marks their 30th anniversary this year, this night showed that this group knows how to generate a fun dance floor party. Velveeta's party returns to the 4D's Lounge on March 29.

Brent Martin of Velveeta

Colton Fouse

I enjoyed a few multi-band shows recently, including the "Slime State III" bash early last month at Zeno's in State College. This show featured four exciting bands, each with distinctive styles and flavors. I first arrived as Pittsburgh-based indie rock foursome Secret Tunnel was under way. Their mix of punk, alternative and indie rock flavors, winding melodies and multi-speed tempos set the tone and quickly had a good-sized crowd in front of the stage area. Next up were State College-based "psychonautic cerebrum-space pioneers" Mellow Honey, who generated excitement with their high-powered blend of original alternative, progressive, psychedelic and indie rock. Mellow Honey fired off numerous tunes from their latest album, "Fragile Animal" (see review elsewhere in this issue); including "Bones/Dust," "GroupThink," "Slide Cancel," "Sightless Spineless" and others. Their intensity and hard-driving delivery kept the stagefront crowd riveted and engaged. Following them was another Pittsburgh-based act, Z-Nemo & the Big Slime. Four members strong including group namesake, frontman and guitarist Zoltan Nemo, this group kept the energy level high with their wild, go-for-broke delivery on numerous original songs, plus their own freewheeling

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spins on Bill Medley's "Use Me" and the Black Keys' "Lonely Boy." Closing the night was State College's Sidewinder, delivering all-out blues and blues-driven rock. Singer and guitarist Bear Ketchum, bassist Alex Mijangos and drummer Xavier Hons mixed heavy-rocking original songs with their amped-up takes on blues rock and classic rock numbers; including blistering versions of the Beatles' "Helter Skelter," Royal Blood's "Out of the Black," Al Green's "I'm A Ram" and others. Sidewinder played with fierce intensity and worked off each other in classic power trio fashion; Bear demonstrated fiery solo and slide guitar work, Alex showed amazing skill on the bass strings, and Xavier displayed power and purpose behind the drum kit. Highlights were numerous, including Z-Nemo's Zoltan joining in with backing vocals on a request for ZZ Top's "Sharp Dressed Man," and the intense night-ending encore rendition of the Beastie Boys' "Sabotage," complete with moshpit action in front of the stage. This was a feverish, fun show and well worth my drive to State College to witness!

Alexander Babal

Another exciting multi-band bill last month was the "Raising A Ruckus" shindig at McGarvey's in Altoona. This show also featured four groups with exciting and different musical angles. Kicking off this night was Nanty Glo-based heavy metal practitioners Nailed to the Cross. Lead singer Alexander Babal, guitarist Brenden Hunter, bassist Joshua Kulick and drummer Kevin Young unleashed the beast as they generated Black Sabbath-rooted, bone-crushingly heavy metal. Death metal in spots, thrash metal in others, Nailed to the Cross ignited the crowd with several original songs plus their version of Black Sabbath's "Children of the Grave." Altoona's Mashbrotatoe then raised more ruckus with their own scathing brand of punk-driven rock. Singer Matt Watson, guitarist "Philly Grooves" Wagner, bassist Wes Shriner and drummer Josh Ryan mixed blistering covers with several originals, showing feverish energy along the way. Mashbrotatoe roused the crowd with amped-up takes on Creedence Clearwater Revival's "Fortunate Son," Faith No More's "Epic" and Green Day's "Longview," and played at least one original number, "Don't Give Up." From Philadelphia, Academy Order next brought goth-geared rock to the stage. Featuring the husband-and-wife duo of singer Matthew Green and keyboardist and singer Norelle Green, Academy Order performed hard-driving, dark-flavored rock that blended goth rock and new wave flavors, with touches of hardcore and techno. The group did several songs off their debut full-length album "A New Kind of Fear" (which they also released on cassette tape), along with a few off their six-song EP "To Wilt Without Shame." Academy Order's goth-geared music was well-received by the McGarvey's crowd, and even had a few folks dancing. Ending the 'Ruckus" was Dubois-based punk-rocking duo The Wasted. Mike plays guitar and Donnie provides the drumbeats; both sing. The Wasted played fast, furious and unapologetic punk rock, delivering three (or less) chords and the truth. Some of their songs this night included "Backstabbing Friends," "High School Sucked," "Karen Called the Cops" and "Bath Salt Zombie." The Wasted played it loose and never took themselves too seriously, which also resonated with the McGarvey's crowd. It was good to see the large audience appreciating and showing their support for each band this night.

Matt Watson of Mashbrotatoe

Also at McGarvey's, I caught the latest return visit of the Hackensaw Boys, their first appearance here in two years. Making their McGarvey's debut to open the night was new local folk-based duo The Sweet Muscatines. Morgan Turchetta sings, and Wesley Lane sings plus plays acoustic guitar and Appalachian mountain dulcimer. Wesley demonstrated the dulcimer on the traditional folk number "Bury Me Beneath the Willow." He and Morgan displayed nice harmonies on their mix of folk, pop and country numbers; including the Beatles' "Blackbird," Shania Twain's "You're Still the One," Peter Doran's "Blue Mountains" and the set-ending rendition of Bob Dylan's "It Ain't Me Babe." Performing next was Frank Musaraca, now performing solo after previously fronting The Roof. Strumming acoustic guitar, Frank sang a mix of original songs and select covers, displaying a soulful and emotive voice along the way. One of his originals was "Curtain Call," and his cover selection included renditions of Radiohead's "Creep," the Allman Brothers' "Whipping Post" and Third Eye Blind's "Semi-Charmed Life." Now based in Lynchburg, Virginia, "roots music shapeshifters" the Hackensaw Boys have been touring the country as they celebrate the 20th anniversary of their 2005 album "Love What You Do," and they did many of the songs from the album during their headlining set. Singer and guitarist David Sickmen, fiddle player Caleb Powers, banjo player Taylor Shuck, upright bass player Aaron Smith and percussionist Bee Roberts – playing his own makeshift percussion instrument called the charismo – lifted up the audience with songs from the album such as "Cannonball," "Kiss You Down There," "Alabama Shamrock," "Bordertown" and others. The Hackensaw Boys brought a lot of enthusiasm to their performance and connected with the audience well, and the union of band and audience gave this show a community feel – especially when the group closed out the night by bringing their instruments out onto the dance floor and playing directly to the audience circled around them. This was a pleasant finish to the show, which culminated with one last song from the "Love What You Do" album, "Sun's Work Undone."

Norelle Green of Academy Order

Popular 1990s hard rockers Heaven Tonite staged their 30th anniversary reunion weekend late last month. The weekend consisted of two shows, the first happening at Charlie's Pub in Dubois, and the second at Funky Claud's in Altoona. A huge crowd greeted the group during the latter show, and celebrated as Heaven Tonite – lead singer and guitarist Scott Robleski, lead guitarist and singer Matt Day, bassist and singer Steve Leach, keyboardist and singer Gary Bailey, and drummer and singer Jamie McGarvey – de-

continued on next page...

The Professor continued....

livered high-powered classic and arena rock favorites from the 1970s, 80s and 90s. Work duties prevented me from seeing the opening performers, Hairbourne, as well as Heaven Tonite's first set (during which they performed Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody"). But the nightcap set sounded superb with Jeff "Rit's Drunk Again" Rittenhouse dialing in the group's mighty sound. Heaven Tonite opened the set with the Pink Floyd "The Wall" triple-shot of "Run Like Hell," "Another Brick in the Wall" and "Comfort-

Mark Middleton of Desperadoes

ably Numb," and proceeded to do numbers from Ozzy Osbourne, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Prince, the Journey double-shot of "Don't Stop Believin'" and "Separate Ways," Living Colour's "Cult of Personality, Led Zeppelin's "The Ocean" and two more Queen numbers, "Fat Bottomed Girls" and the night-closing "Crazy Little Thing Called Love." Scott's voice can still reach the high rang-

Bee Roberts of the Hackensaw Boys

es, Matt's guitar fireworks were incredible, and Heaven Tonite's instrumental execution was clean and tight. The Funky Claud's crowd loved every moment of it, and eagerly awaits Heaven Tonite's next reunion tour.

Ice storms on consecutive weekends last month curtailed several of my planned live music adventures, but milder weather on Valentine's Day enabled me to get over the hill to Johnstown, where I caught up with longtime favorites The Desperadoes at Southmont Gardens. Singer and guitarist Mark Middleton, bassist Mike "Soupy" Suppes and drummer Harold Knappenberger take on any and all songs shouted out to them, and they again did so on this night. They started out gently with their version of Neil Young's "Long May You Run," but quickly cranked up the rock as they did numbers from the James Gang, Robin Trower, ZZ Top, Tom Petty, the Outlaws, the Cult and much more. Numerous highlights ensued, such as the Desperadoes' versions of Pink Floyd's "Breathe" and "Time" to cap their first set, their honoring of an audience request for "Don't Dog Me" from Mark's days with former national recording group Raging Slab, plus renditions of the Chambers Brothers' "Time Has Come Today," Grand Funk Railroad's "I'm Your Captain (Closer to Home)" and Neil Young's "Powderfinger." The Desperadoes were fearless, taking on each song with power and purpose. And when a voice in the back of the room called out the song title "Heartbreaker," Mark contemplated whose song by that title they would perform – resulting in the Desperadoes merging together one verse each from Grand Funk Railroad, the Rolling Stones and Led Zeppelin's "Heartbreaker" songs. (Had a female vocalist been in the house, they probably would have taken on Pat Benatar's "Heartbreaker" as well!) And guest James Forish brandished guitar to join the Desperadoes during their night-ending rendition of Foghat's "I Just Want to Make Love to You."

While scrolling through Facebook one Friday afternoon late last month, I came across John "JT" Thompson as he livestreamed his matinee performance at Centre Cares Rehabilitation and Wellness Center in Bellefonte. "Playing for the people," John tickled his keys and brought happiness to the in-person and virtual audiences with his mixture of vintage rock'n'roll, blues, standards, requests and more. In his cordial and joyful style, John

David Sickmen & Caleb Powers of Hackensaw

played numbers from Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Billy Joel, the Drifters, Jim Croce, the Beatles and more. Some highlights included his take on Frank Sinatra's "New York New York," his merger of Johnny Cash's "Folsom Prison Blues" with Willie Nelson's "On the Road Again," and to close the performance, his

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The Professor continued....

rousing rendition of Bill Haley & the Comets' "Rock Around the Clock" with the Centre Cares crowd clapping along. John presents these live stream performances from time to time; should you run across one, stick around and watch, as his performances will likely brighten your day!

And lastly, I got to enjoy some djembe-playing fun as I joined Wasted Talent during one of their weekly Thursday sessions in late January at the Roaring Spring VFW. The mood at these gatherings is always cordial and laid back, and singer and guitarist Colton Fouse and company don't work off a set list. He picks the songs, and the gathered musicians seize the vibe and contribute to the songs. The results are always fun and the VFW audience enjoys it! And solo performer Eric Delozier was present this night and did a few solo songs to end the evening.

The area music scene mourned the losses of friends in recent weeks, including the passing of Jim Allford on January 18 at age 73. Jim was an eager advocate of the area music scene, and wrote CD reviews for the Allentown-based online publication "Steel Notes Magazine." Earlier in his life, Jim played bass and did A&R work in the recording industry. Jim could frequently be seen at area music festival events and other live music shows… The area music scene was also saddened by the passing of longtime area musician Phil Brulia on February 11. Phil was 70. Phil played bass for several bands dating back to the 1970s, prominently as a member of Piranha, The Front and Xeno. Phil was also known for his art skills, and won a number of awards as a member of the Colored Pencil Society of America…And Fernando Hernandez passed on February 12 after a battle with cancer. Fernando was involved in several aspects of the music scene; including helping with production alongside Brad Hawken; both were the first regular stage crew for Jim Donovan & the Sun King Warriors. Fernando also was involved with the Healing Patch Children's Grief Program and the annual "Patched Together: A Day of Music for the Healing Patch" event, where he volunteered and also ran lights. Fernando also could sing, and lent his voice to the second verse of the "Patched Together" theme song, which was recorded in 2012…Our condolences go out to the families and friends of all three men.

News and notes… Another area musician recently began his journey on NBC's singing reality television series "The Voice." On the February 3 program, Roaring Spring-based singer and songwriter Ethan Eckenroad received a 'four-chair turn' on

Matt Day & Scott Robleski of Heaven Tonite

"The Voice," as all four judges – John Legend, Michael Buble, Kelsea Ballerini and Adam Levine – turned around in their chairs in approval of his performance during the blind auditions phase of the program's new season. Ethan subsequently chose "Team Levine," with Adam Levine as his coach on the program. Ethan joins Josh Gallagher and Jimmy Mowery as area musicians who have punched their tickets onto "The Voice"…Popular area country artist Ricky Lee has joined the roster of BGJ Music Promotions. BGJ Music Promotions CEO Beverly Gosdin Jenkins, a pioneer in the country music business and former wife of country music legend Vern Gosdin, is thrilled to welcome Ricky to the team; he will soon release his first single with BGJ, called "America Comes Marching Back Again"…Johnstown's Classic Vinyl Concert Series reached its end last month after a three-year run; the series concluded with two final concerts featuring a joint performance by the Classic Vinyl Concert Band and the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra at the Johnstown's Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center…After a 15 year run, Johnstown's Stone Bridge Blues Band announced that they are stepping aside…Altoona-based old-school punk rockers The BSX-press recently expanded into a quartet with the addition of Sam Edgar, who takes over bass duties while Nick Bayer moves from bass to becoming the group's second guitarist…Clearfield-based horror punk rockers Less Than Zero announced they are going on indefinite hiatus.

Please send correspondence and recordings to: Jim Price, 1104 S. Catherine St., Altoona, PA 16602. You can also e-mail me at jptheprofessor@gmail.com. And if you're into social networking, look me up on Facebook. SUPPORT LOCAL MUSIC!

All photos on The Professor pages by Jim Price

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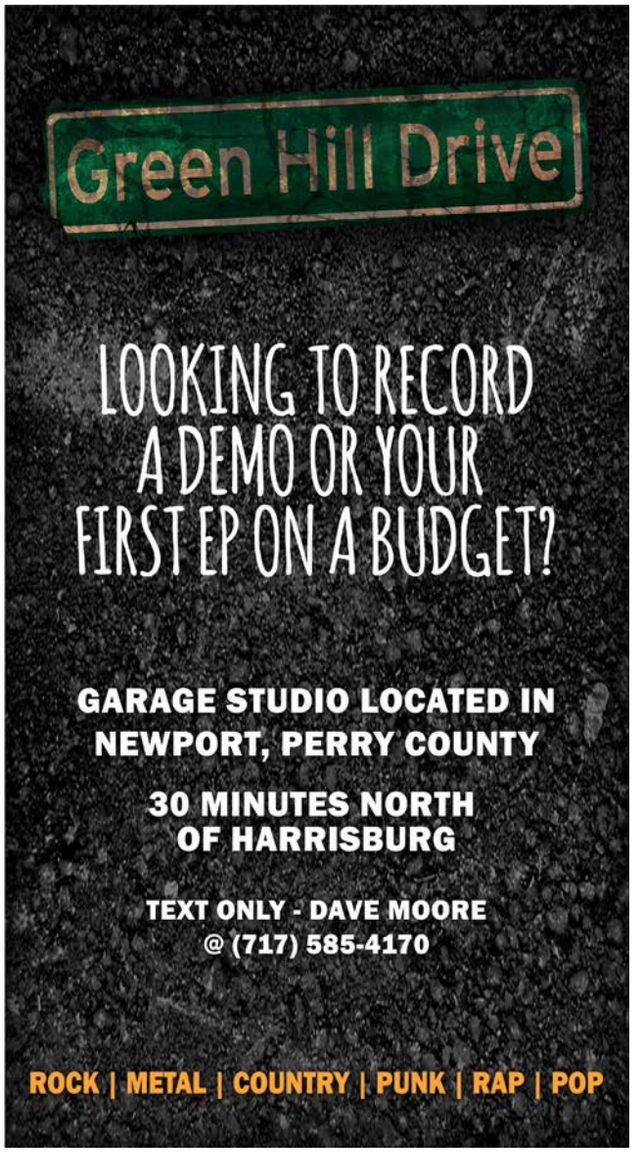
PA MUSICIAN REVIEWS

By Jim Price

MELLOW HONEY – *FRAGILE ANIMAL* (no label) Self-proclaimed "psychonautic cerebrum-space pioneers" since 2020, Mellow Honey has arisen as an exciting live force on State College area stages and beyond. The group's second full-length album, "Fragile Animal," convincingly demonstrates their high-powered brand of alternative, progressive and indie-rock music over a dozen tracks. Brothers Marcin and Robert Borysiewicz share vocal duties; with Marcin wielding guitar, synths and keys and Robert handling bass and sampler; and Ty Tkacik playing drums. Blending elements of alternative, progressive, indie-rock, plus touches of punk, grunge and psychedelia into a lively, hard-driving sound, Mellow Honey merges intriguing melodies and riffs with bracing arrangements that build momentum as each song fires along. The album loosely rides a theme of ultimate mortality; positioning mankind as the "fragile animal," who for all of its dramas, power plays and sense of infallibility is destined to share the same dirt bath as all other earth creatures when all is said and done. Mellow Honey visits this theme several times; the connected songs "Bones" and "Dust" document the final steps of that journey, while the fast-firing "Brain/Worm" professes that the "Fragile animal with a vertical stance/Crawling through the mud with the worms and ants" ends up in the same place as those worms and ants, with the keyboard-driven "Worm" homestretch accompanying man's shuffle off its mortal coil. Mellow Honey's three-track, album-closing passage of the mellotron-ish prog rock-flavored "Omniscience" and the explosive "Ape Awake!" strike a more evolutionary tone, with the boisterous homestretch instrumental "Prigmeal Digbidius" then slamming the lid on the set. The group mixes tempos on the lively "Sightless Spineless," shifting from funk to rapid fire rock to heavy blues; and they generate a surging arrangement on "Cooling Axis" that sets up the ensuing indie-punk rocking "The Mirror." Mellow Honey plays with purpose and intensity through this whole set, delivering free-spirited, go-for-broke energy punctuated by timely bursts of spacy guitar plus keyboard feedback and reverb effects that help propel these songs along. Each number is fresh and distinctive, and the group's overall execution is sharp and focused. Mixed by Marcin and Robert Borysiewicz and mastered by Samuel Escourt, this album sounds crisp and balanced. Mellow Honey crafts a strong set with "Fragile Animal," raising the bar on their evolving brand of hard-hitting modern rock. This album provides an invigorating, exciting listen. (The album can be obtained and accessed through the group's website, www.mellowhoneyband.com, as well as the group's Bandcamp page and through streaming websites.)

MATT OTIS & THE SOUND – *HERE NOT HERE* (no label) Through his musical output thus far, Matt Otis has established himself as a thoughtful, cerebral and philosophical songwriter whose lyrical themes can trigger deep thought and introspection. Matt and the Sound's latest set, "Here Not Here," may well be his deepest set yet, both in his lyrics and overall musicality. Through 13 songs (16 tracks total), Matt weaves together intricate numbers about the human experience; touching on themes of love, life and death, plus interactions with others, all under an umbrella concept of living in the moment. A cast of 27 different instrumentalists and singers help Matt bring these songs to life; making for a varied musical journey through flavors of folk, rock, Americana and more. A brief prelude with singer Victoria Colonello called "Together's Where I Want to End" sets the album's thematic tone and leads into "Stars," where Matt, Victoria and Terek Richie contemplate life and death, and if life itself is just a moment in a bigger circle and cycle; a Hammond B3 nicely underscores the piece. Matt sings of embracing and living life on the folksy "Sea to See," with Robin Chambers providing uplifting violin and backing vocal accompaniment. Matt and guest Alyssa Hankey sing about living with purpose and intention on "Body with No Core," and – backed by the Community Choir – Matt considers how we find the light inside of ourselves on the gentle-toned "Morning Light." The two-part ('Bright' and 'Dark') "Untamed Love" regards embracing each loving moment before it's gone; Robin Chambers again provides tender strings and voice during the song's first part, before Sean and Kevin McDonald bolster the hard-rocking second part homestretch. Willow Hill's Alexandra Naples joins Matt on the folksy and upbeat duet piece "Alone," about living in the face-to-face joy of the moment instead of obsessing over the cellphone. With guest Tai Chirovsky contributing vocals, Matt Otis & the Sound strike a samba-like tone on the romantic ode "Overused." The album closes with a "Full Circle" reprise of "Stars" to re-establish the set's primary theme. "Here Not Here" generates a consistent, cohesive vibe from start to finish with its flowing melodies, arrangements and orchestration. While Matt's voice is frequently front and center, he allows his various guests and contributors to shine in the mix, keeping this set sounding fresh throughout. The wide variety of instrumentation used here – from string sections to piano and Hammond B-3 organ to an African stringed seperewa and more – provides additional color and depth to the album. Produced, engineered and mixed by John Caldwell (who also co-wrote several songs and played multiple instruments) at Mount Royal Studios in Pittsburgh, this album sounds full and rich, and captures the completeness of its contributors well. With its thoughtful themes, heartfelt vocals and broad musical blends, "Here Not Here" is Matt Otis & the Sound's masterpiece which captivates from start to finish and encourages repeat listens to experience everything that it has to offer. I highly recommend this! (The album can be accessed and obtained through Matt Otis' website, www.mattotismusic.com, as well as on digital and streaming platforms.)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FOR SALE: 45 Record Collection: Joey Welz is selling all of his 45 oldies records from the 50's to the 80's. Total 40 boxes full, total 2000 45's Asking $5000.00 call 717-271-1229 email: joeywelz@dejazzed.com

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FOR SALE: Album Collection: Joey Welz from Bill Haley's Comets selling all albums collected from the 50s to the 80s total albums = 3350. Asking $2,000 call 717-271-1229 email: joeywelz@dejazzed.com

MUSICIANS WANTED:

WANTED: Bass player wanted for working rock cover band in Bedford/Altoona area. Text or call (814) 327-5497

WANTED: Classic Rock band being formed to play in the State College area. Seasoned Bass player and drummer are looking for a male lead singer - tenor with good range, keyboardist who can sing backups, and guitarist to handle rhythm and lead. We are committed to being the best band in the area and need others who want the same. Classic Rock from the 70's and 80's, meaning no metal, grunge, punk. We practice in Spring Mills and look to play once a week and special events. Call 814-412-0396, leave message for Randall saying your name, what you play and how best to contact you.

WANTED: HBG area guitarist looking for other musicians to play with as a pass time to start with. if its a go-then we move ahead. call 223-241-8123

WANTED:: South Central Junction seeks a male tenor and a keyboardist. Swing Funk, Jazz, Blues, etc Rehearse every Thursday in Lancaster 6:30-9:30 pm Call Robbie 717-201-0578

WANTED: Singer for 80's metal band Male or Female. High energy professional vocals required. South York area text 717-683-8625 for more info

WANTED: Lancaster Rock band looking for bassist email mattmis42@gmail.com if interested. More info upon request

WANTED: Working band needs bass and lead guitar players Williamsport area country and classic rock 570-415-8016

WANTED Anyone want to form a Def Lep tribute band? You have to be able to sing. Mike 717-386-1205

WANTED: Lead Guitar needed for 80's metal band. This is not a startup! Practice Sundays in Red Lion, Pa. Backing vocals a plus. Text 717-683-8625

WANTED: Singer/songwriter seeking percussionist/drummer and bass player for acoustic based music. Originals and reworked covers. Robesonia. Don 484-769-7231

MUSICIANS AVAILABLE:

MUSICIAN AVAILABLE: BASS PLAYER lots of experience/vocals. Can perform almost anything. Covers or Originals. Looking for working or near working band. Have PA & lighting. Will travel. 610-914-6914.

Musician Available: Six string guitarist looking to join an up and running band. can play what ever you can dish out. HBG area have equip and trans 223-241-8123

AVAILABLE: Experienced drummer professional equipment blah blah blah. Rock modern country. I can play i can't sing. I can be that missing piece. Let's rock. 484-332-4729.

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AVAILABLE: Keytar-synth player "can sit in with your band" sound of Giuffria, Ezp, Angel promo cd available AFM union scale no freebies Altoona area 443-310-1325

AVAILABLE: Professional drummer available many years of experience playing rock, pop, country, blues, etc. Can sing, play to a click or tracks Central PA preferred Call 570-898-4713

AVAILABLE: Bass Player with vocals looking for 80's/90's Rock band. Good Attitude, Looking for same. Reading, Berks County Area. Good Equipment. Looking to play out. Call:484-345-0266

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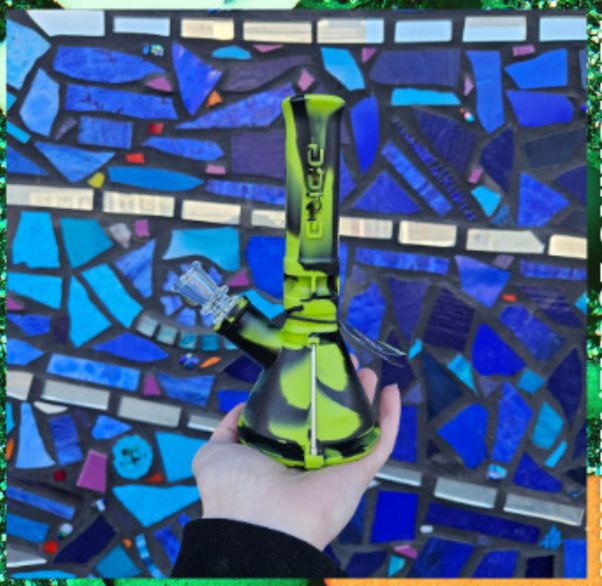

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